

Original

RECEIVED  
FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

2006 OCT 30 AM 11:06

Michael L. Kochman, MD, FACP

Newtown, PA 18940

September 30, 2006

Office of the General Counsel  
Federal Election Commission  
999 E Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20463

MUR # 5867

Dear Sirs:

This letter is to bring to your attention my concerns, and the concerns of others, that violations of the 501c3 non-profit regulations have occurred and are continuing to occur.

The American College of Gastroenterology (ACG) (6400 Goldsboro Road, MD, Suite 450, Bethesda, MD 20817, phone 301-263-9000, fax 301-263-9025, [www.acg.gi.org](http://www.acg.gi.org)) is a 501c3 organization based in Virginia. I have been in communication with them over the 2 incidents that have taken place. I am a member of the organization and have been in recent communication with their Executive Director, Brad Stillman, and with their former Executive Director, Tom Fise, over these issues.

I believe that these are violations of the FEC rules and the IRS regulations. From my understanding of the rules and regulations it appears that a number of violations have occurred.

Incident #1 occurred in Philadelphia in September 2005 when the ACG set up a dinner program on colorectal cancer and invited Sen. Santorum to participate in the program which included a reception for him. The program was arranged by the ACG to appear to be part of the yearly Pennsylvania State Gastroenterology Course, which it was not. I was told that Sen. Santorum was there because that we as gastroenterologists need to support him. At the dinner

27044170493

and lecture I was told that I could meet him and speak with him but that I was expected to make a contribution to his campaign and should support him by voting for him. This was near a time for a Senate vote on colorectal cancer screening. This was overt fundraising, expression of the candidate's position, and coercion.

Incident #2 is ongoing and concerns billboards that the ACG has posted in Philadelphia off of I-95 (picture enclosed) and I-76 concerning Senator Santorum. As you can see the ACG logo is nearly unreadable and at the legal limit of 55 mph only the picture of Sen. Santorum and his name are readable along the statement of his political position. The I-76 billboard is similar, if not identical. I believe that the erection of the billboards is timed to provide political advantage to Sen. Santorum during the upcoming election and is not accidental given the remote time of the vote on colorectal cancer screening. These billboards reflect Sen. Santorum's vote and make it clear to voters what his stand is. Much to my dismay I have found out that these billboards were paid for out of the general operating funds of the ACG which include dues payments, and that additional billboards have been erected in other states concerning Reps. Cardin and English, and Sen. Lieberman, Nelson, Snowe, Bingaman, and Graham. I have not seen the other billboards, but have been told by others that they are prominently in view off of major highways (Rep. Cardin's just over the border in DC from Maryland as an example).

Your attention to these matters is appreciated.

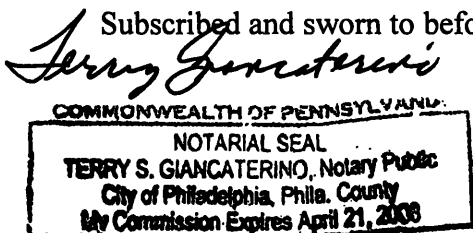
The above contents are true to the best of my knowledge.

Sincerely,




Michael L. Kochman, MD, FACP

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 17 day of October, 2006.




27044170494



**Thank you,  
Senator Santorum**

For your strong commitment to  
**HELPING AMERICA DEFEAT COLON CANCER**

To learn more about Colon Cancer Screening, visit AGG's website at [www.agg-gl.org](http://www.agg-gl.org)

 **AMERICAN COLLEGE of GASTROENTEROLOGY**  
Improving the quality of gastrointestinal care

